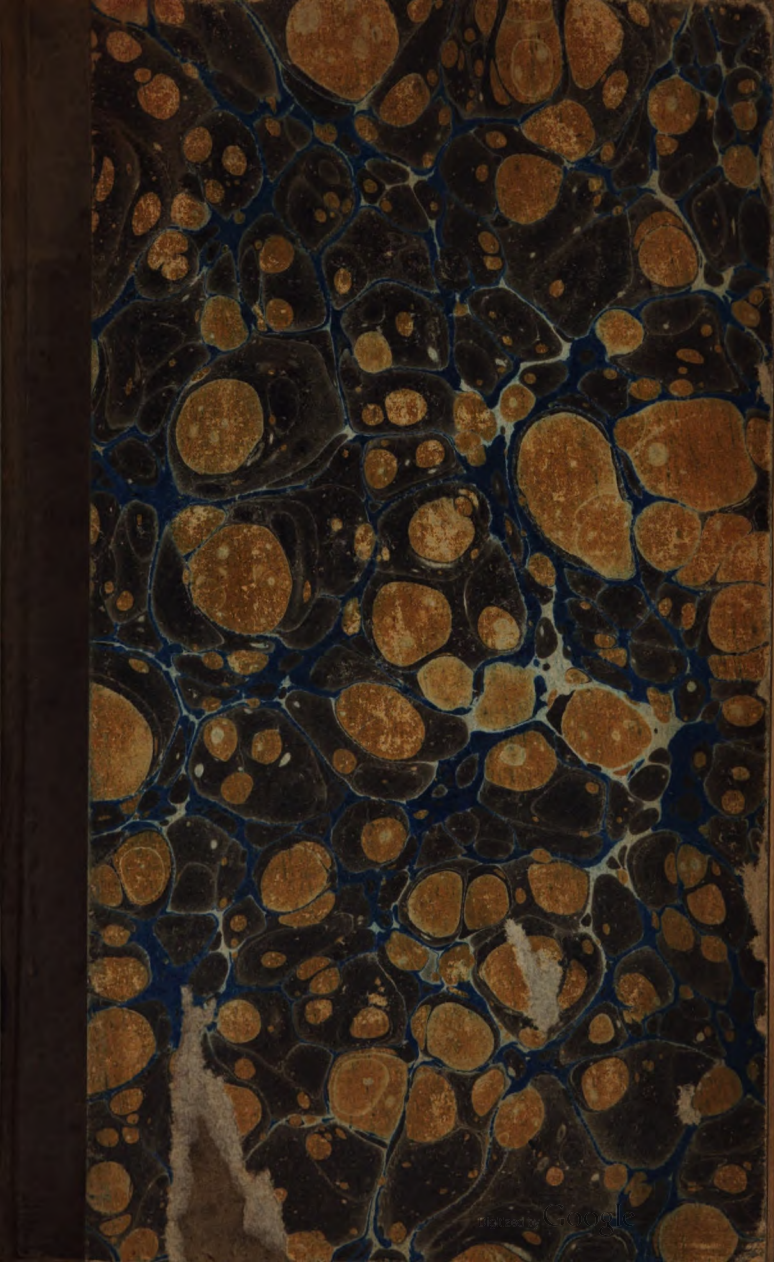

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Prayer

An Act of Humiliation

FOR

PREVAILING NATIONAL AND PAROCHIAL SINS.



OUR help is in the Name of the Lord,
Who hath made heaven and earth.¹

Supplication.

O Lord, hear our prayer,
and let our cry come unto Thee.²

Almighty God, we beseech Thee graciously to behold this Thy family; for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross. Raise up, we pray Thee, Thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us, that whereas through our sins and wickedness we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, Thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us, through the satisfaction of the same Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.³

Turn Thou us, good Lord, and so shall we be turned.
Be favourable, O Lord, be favourable to Thy people,
Who turn to Thee with weeping, fasting, and praying.
Spare Thy people, good Lord, spare them;
and let not Thine heritage be brought to confusion.⁴

¹ Psalm cxxiv. 7.

² Psalm cii. 1.

³ Collects for Good Friday and fourth Sunday in Advent.

⁴ Commination Service.

Confession.

O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face,—
to our princes,
to our priests,
to our teachers,
to our fathers of families,
and to all our people,
because we have sinned,
and have committed iniquity, against Thee ;
neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God ;
but have rebelled against Thee,
and cast Thy laws behind our backs.¹

Having gifts,
differing according to the grace that is given to us,
we have not profited therewithal.

Our prophets have not prophesied
according to the proportion of faith ;
our ministers have not waited on their ministry ;
nor our teachers on teaching.

In giving, we have not acted with simplicity ;
nor in shewing mercy, with cheerfulness.
Our love has not been without dissimulation ;
we have not abhorred that which is evil,
nor cleaved to that which is good.

We have minded high things,
and not condescended to men of low estate.

We are wise in our own conceits,
and think of ourselves
more highly than we ought to think.²

We have been lovers of our own selves ;
covetous ; boasters ; proud ;
blasphemers ; disobedient to parents ;
unthankful ; unholy ;
without natural affection ; truce-breakers ;

¹ Nehem. ix. 26, 32 ; Dan. ix. 5, 8, 10.

² Rom. xli. 6-9, 16.

false accusers ;
 incontinent ; fierce ;
 despisers of those that are good ;
 lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God ;
 having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.¹
 We have forsaken the assembling of ourselves together.²

We have not continued stedfastly
 in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship,
 and in breaking of bread and in prayers.³

We have not endured sound doctrine ;
 but after our own lusts have heaped to ourselves teachers,
 having itching ears ;⁴

tossed to and fro,
 and carried about by every wind of doctrine.⁵

We have not considered one another,
 to provoke unto love and to good works.⁶

We have not loved our enemies ;
 nor done good to them that hate us ;
 nor blessed them that curse us ;
 nor prayed for them that despitefully use us.⁷

When we are reviled, we revile again ;

when we suffer, we threaten ;⁸

when injured, we avenge ourselves ;
 we give place unto wrath ;

we are easily provoked and overcome of evil ;
 we recompense evil for evil.⁹

We are implacable and unmerciful ;¹⁰
 we judge, and condemn,¹¹ and hate one another ;¹²
 we speak evil one of another,¹³ and think evil,
 and rejoice in the iniquity,
 rather than the truth and integrity,
 of one another.¹⁴

¹ 2 Tim. iii. 2-5.

⁴ 2 Tim. iii. 5, 6.

⁷ Luke vi. 27, 28.

¹⁰ Rom. i. 31.

¹³ James iv. 11.

² Heb. x. 25.

⁵ Ephes. iv. 14.

⁸ 1 Pet. ii. 23.

¹¹ Luke vi. 37.

¹⁴ 1 Cor. xiii. 5, 6.

³ Acts ii. 42.

⁶ Heb. x. 24.

⁹ Rom. xii. 17, 19, 21.

¹² Tit. iii. 3.

We are carnal, sold under sin.¹

We are not doers of Thy Word,
but hearers only.²

Our conversation is not
as it becometh the gospel of Christ.³

The anointing which we have received of Him
abideth not in us.⁴

We have trodden under foot the Son of God,
and done despite unto the Spirit of grace.⁵

O wretched men that we are!

who shall deliver us from the body of this death?⁶

Almighty and everlasting God, Who hatest nothing
that Thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them
that are penitent; create and make in us new and contrite
hearts; that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknow-
ledging our wretchedness, may obtain of Thee, the God of
all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.⁷

Lord, we acknowledge our transgressions;
and our sins are ever before us.⁸

Our souls have them still in remembrance,
and are humbled within us.⁹

We abhor ourselves;

and repent, as in dust and ashes.¹⁰

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed;
because His compassions fail not.¹¹

Prayer for Mercy.

O Lord, correct us, but with judgment;
not in Thine anger, lest Thou bring us to nothing.¹²

We know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are right;
and that Thou in very faithfulness *hast* corrected us.¹³

¹ Rom. vii. 14.

² James i. 22.

³ Phil. i. 27.

⁴ 1 John ii. 27.

⁵ Heb. x. 29.

⁶ Rom. vii. 24.

⁷ Collect for Ash-Wednesday.

⁸ Psalm li. 2.

⁹ Lam. iii. 20.

¹⁰ Job xlii. 6.

¹¹ Lam. iii. 22.

¹² Jer. x. 24.

¹³ Ps. cxix. 75.

Thou hast watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us.

Therefore hath the curse devoured the land ;

and the inhabitants thereof are desolate ;

and there is a crying for bread in the streets ;

and all joy is darkened :

the mirth of the land is gone.

Therefore is there great distress in the land,

and wrath upon the people,

with perplexity :

as with the people, so with the priests ;

as with the servants, so with their masters ;

as with the buyers, so with the sellers ;

men's hearts failing them for fear,

and for looking after those things

which are coming on the earth.¹

The land mourneth,

and languisheth,

and fadeth away.

Because the land also is defiled

under the inhabitants thereof :

because we have transgressed Thy laws ;

changed the ordinances ;

broken the everlasting covenant.²

Now, therefore, O our God,

Thou art just in all that is brought upon us.

Nevertheless, let not all the trouble seem little before Thee,

that hath come upon us.

For Thy great mercies' sake consume us not utterly,

neither forsake us.³

O Lord, deal not with us after our sins ;

neither reward us after our iniquities.⁴

Hide Thy face from our sins ;

and blot out all our misdeeds.

¹ Luke xxi. 25, 26.

² Isa. xxiv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 11.

³ Neh. ix. 31-33.

⁴ Psalm ciii. 10.

Wash us thoroughly from our wickedness ;
and cleanse us from our sin.

Create in us clean hearts, O God ;
and renew a right spirit within us.

Cast us not away from Thy presence ;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from us.

O give us the comfort of Thy help again ;
and stablish us with Thy free Spirit.

Then shall we teach Thy ways unto the wicked ;
and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.

O Lord, open Thou our lips ;
and our mouth shall shew forth Thy praise.¹

O our God, incline Thine ear, and hear :
open Thine eyes, and behold our desolations.

For we do not present our supplications before Thee
for our righteousness,

but for Thy great mercies.

O Lord, hear ; O Lord, forgive :

O Lord, hearken and do ; defer not ;
for Thine own sake, O our God :

for Thy church and Thy people are called
by Thy Son's name.²

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father Which art in heaven : hallowed be Thy Name :

Thy kingdom come : Thy will be done in earth

as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread :

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass
against us. And lead us not into temptation :

but deliver us from evil. Amen.

O God, make speed to save us :

O Lord, make haste to help us.³

¹ Psalm li. 2, 9-13, 15.

² Dan. ix. 18, 19.

³ Psalm xl. 16.

Prayer for Grace.

O Lord, let it be Thy pleasure to deliver us
from all evil and mischief ;
from all blindness and hardness of heart ;
from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy ;
from envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness ;
from fornication, drunkenness, covetousness,
profane swearing,
and all other deadly sin ;
from all deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil ;
from all sedition, privy conspiracy, and rebellion ;
from all false doctrine, heresy, and division ;
Good Lord, deliver us,
whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy most precious blood.
We sinners do beseech Thee to hear us, O Lord God ;
and that it may please Thee to
rule and govern Thy holy Church universal
in the right way ;
inspire it continually
with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord ;¹
bring into the way of truth
all such as have erred and are deceived ;
strengthen such as do stand ;
comfort and help the weak-hearted ;
raise up them that fall ;
awaken them that sleep ;
quicken the dead in sin ;
and finally beat down Satan under our feet.
Illuminate all bishops, priests, and deacons,
especially our own archbishop² and curates,
with true knowledge and understanding of Thy Word ;
that both by their preaching and living
they may set it forth, and shew it accordingly.

¹ Prayer for the Church militant.² Or bishop.

Give to us and to all Thy people grace
 to hear meekly Thy Word ;
 to receive it, and all Thy holy ordinances, with pure affection ;
 and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit :
 that we may be endued with
 love, joy, peace,
 long-suffering, gentleness, goodness,
 faith, meekness, temperance :¹
 that we may be diligent in business ; fervent in spirit ;
 patient in tribulation ; instant in prayer ;
 ready to distribute ; given to hospitality ;
 kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love ;
 in honour preferring one another :²
 not rendering evil for evil, nor railing for railing,
 but, contrariwise, blessing ;³
 endeavouring to overcome evil with good,²
 and to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace :⁴
 forgiving our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers ;
 whom do Thou also forgive and turn their hearts.
 We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.⁵

Intercessory Prayer.

O merciful God, Who hast made all men, and hatest
 nothing that Thou hast made, nor wouldest the death of
 a sinner, but rather that he should be converted and live :
 have mercy upon all careless, profane, and unconverted
 persons, and take from them all ignorance, hardness of
 heart, and contempt of Thy Word ; and so fetch them
 home, blessed Lord, to Thy flock, that they may be saved
 among the remnant of the true Israelites, and be made
 one fold under one Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who
 liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, world without end. Amen.⁶

¹ Gal. v. 22.² Rom. xii. 10-13, 21.³ 1 Pet. iii. 9.⁴ Eph. iv. 3.⁵ Litany.⁶ Third Collect for Good Friday.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace; give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord: that as there is but one body, and one spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may henceforth be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.¹

O God, our refuge and strength, Who art the author of all godliness; be ready, we beseech Thee, to hear the devout prayers of Thy Church; and grant that those things which we ask faithfully we may obtain effectually. Stir up, we beseech Thee, the wills of Thy faithful people, that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruits of good works, may of Thee be plenteously rewarded. Graft in all our hearts the love of Thy Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same, until we come unto Thine everlasting kingdom.² Finally, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or estate [especially those for whom our prayers are desired]; that it may please Thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. This and all other necessities for them, for us, and Thy whole Church, we humbly beg in the name and mediation of Jesus Christ, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.³

¹ Prayer for unity, in the Office for the Queen's Accession.

² Collects for 24th, 25th, and 7th Sundays after Trinity.

³ Prayer for all sorts and conditions of men.

PSALM LXXIX. 8, 9, 11-13.

Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of Thy Name.
O deliver us, and be merciful unto our sins,
for Thy Name's sake.
O remember not our old sins,
but have mercy upon us :
And that soon ;
for we are come to great misery.
O let the sorrowful sighing of the prisoners
come before Thee ;
According to the greatness of Thy power,
preserve Thou those that are appointed to die.
So we, that are Thy people, and sheep of Thy pasture,
shall give Thee thanks for ever :
And will alway be shewing forth Thy praise
from generation to generation.

PSALM LXXX. 1-15, 18, 19.

Hear, O Thou Shepherd of Israel,
Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep :
Thou that dwellest between the cherubim,
shine forth.
Stir up Thy strength, and come and help us.
Turn us again, O God :
shew the light of Thy countenance, and we shall be whole.
O Lord God of Hosts,
how long wilt Thou be angry with Thy people that prayeth ?
Thou feedest them with the bread of tears ;
and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.
Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours ;
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Turn us again, Thou God of hosts :
cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved.

Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt:
Thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.
Thou madest room for it;
and when it had taken root, it filled the land.
The hills were covered with the shadow of it;
and the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedar-trees.
She stretched out her branches unto the sea;
and her boughs unto the river.
Why hast Thou then broken down her hedge;
so that all they which pass by do pluck her?
The wild boar out of the wood doth root it up;
and the wild beasts of the field devour it.
Turn Thee again, Thou God of Hosts, look down from heaven:
Behold and visit this vine;
and the place of the vineyard that Thy right hand hath
planted:
and the branch that Thou madest so strong for Thyself.
So will we not go back from Thee:
Quicken us, and we will call upon Thy Name.
Turn us again, O Lord God of Hosts:
Cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be healed.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall
be, world without end. Amen.

*[In the Author's parish this Act of Humiliation is used in private by
Communicants early on Friday Mornings.]*

